ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A switched reluctance drive is operated as a generator on a high voltage supply which has no long-term energy storage capability. A low voltage supply is used to start the generator through the use of a dedicated priming winding, which provides sufficient energy to allow the generator to build up charge in DC link capacitor(s). Once sufficient charge has built up, the priming winding is de-energized and the generator continues in a steady-state operation.